IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Miguel ESTEVEZ et al.

Filed: Filed Concurrently Herewith

Title of Invention: METHOD OF CODING ARTEFACTS REDUCTION

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13-16 by rewriting the same as follows:

5. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, **characterized in that** said deblocking filtering is performed separately for horizontal and vertical borders of neighbouring blocks.

6. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said spatial filtering includes a deringing filtering, wherein the deringing filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value (Q).

9. (Amended) Method according to claim 6, **characterized in that** said deringing filtering is a two dimensional filtering taking only neighbouring pixels of said pixel to be filtered into account which belong to a same region.

10. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the temporal filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value (Q).

13. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said image quality value (Q) is determined based on a quantization scaling factor (M_{Quant}) used for encoding the picture.

14. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said image quality value (Q) is determined based on a user selection.

15. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said discrete encoding/decoding of the picture is based on a discrete cosine transform.

16. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said discrete encoding/decoding of the picture is based on a MPEG coding scheme.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 remain in the application. Claims 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13-16 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to claims 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13-16 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned

"Version with markings to show changes made." The filing fee has been calculated based upon these amendments to the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGE MADE

In the claims:

5. (Amended) Method according to claim 2 ~~anyone of claims 2 to 4~~, **characterized in that** said deblocking filtering is performed separately for horizontal and vertical borders of neighbouring blocks.

6. (Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~, **characterized in that** said spatial filtering includes a deringing filtering, wherein the deringing filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value (Q).

9. (Amended) Method according to claim 6 ~~anyone of claims 6 to 8~~, **characterized in that** said deringing filtering is a two dimensional filtering taking only neighbouring pixels of said pixel to be filtered into ~~accont~~ account which belong to a same region.

10. (Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~, **characterized in that** the temporal filter operation decreases with an increasing image quality value (Q).

13. (Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~, **characterized in that** said image quality value (Q) is determined based on a quantization scaling factor (M_{Quant}) used for encoding the picture.

14. (Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~, **characterized in that** said image quality value (Q) is determined based on a user selection.

15. (Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~, **characterized in that** said discrete encoding/decoding of the picture is based on a ~~dicrete~~ discrete cosine transform.

16. (Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~, **characterized in that** said discrete encoding/decoding ~~decodeing~~ of the picture is based on a MPEG coding scheme.